



Council Meeting Summary

Monday, October 8, 2012
Greenstone Farm Credit Services
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

In Attendance: Jamie Clover Adams Randy Bell, Amanda Edmonds, Ed Deeb, Mike Hamm, Rebecca Cook, Auday Arabo, Marty Gerencer, Evan Smith, Jim Goodheart, Gwen Imes, Marla Moss, Susan Goodell

Welcome:

Jamie Clover Adams, MFPC's new Chair greeted the group, public guests and the members introduced themselves. Jane Whitacre expressed a big MFPC thank you to Patty Cantrell, Eugene Barnes, Renee DeWindt and Jim Herbert for their service, as their service on the MFP has come to an end. There are four open seats on the MFPC, 2 in sustainable agriculture, one k-12 education and one non-food manufacturing seat. These are 3 year terms that begin on November 1, 2012.

MFPC TASK FORCE REPORTS (refer to meeting minutes in the meeting packet)

- **Access Task Force** -Amanda Edmonds gave the ACCESS task force report mentioning the value of the monthly meetings to the members who re learning from each other and inviting guest presenters to share. The task force is also compiling information for the development of policy recommendations for the report to the Governor.

Mike Hamm announced that the Center for Regional Food Systems has been working with MDCH to add some food access questions to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS). This research would allow the State to ask specific questions about access to fresh food and other barriers that may exist for consumers.

- **Farmer Task Force** -Evan Smith described the progress made on the farmer task force. A recent focus has been on the need to mitigate financial risk for farmers. The group made a recommendation about creating a fresh food financing fund that could help producers with access to capital. Both Marty Gerencer and Evan Smith expressed that the need for capital is great for farmers. Director Clover Adams suggested that would be important to do a gap analysis about funding for farmers and that being "credit ready" or "credit worthy" might also be barriers, as in any small business.

Food Business Task Force- Auday Arabo explained that the Business task force has begun to create a plan for inventing a Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI), (The Michigan Good Food Fund) as a mechanism for funding initiatives that help meet goals of the Good food Charter. He explained that there are major barriers for grocery retailers looking for financing to begin new businesses. He also mentioned that the Fair Food Network has commissioned Michael Shuman to do an analysis of the economic impact of localizing the food system. A report like this has been done for Detroit and SE Michigan and a statewide report should produce some good data for our case for support for an HFFI. The task force also feels strongly that resurrecting Michigan Market Maker as the central data base bout Michigan-made food should be done.

It was expressed that a general explanation about what a Healthy Food Financing Initiative is and would look like in Michigan needs to be made to the MFPC.

- **Institutional Food Purchasing Task Force-** Marla Moss gave a report. The IFP task force recently discussed the need for an investment in food supply chain expertise and a statewide system to support schools and other public institutions in their logistics. The purpose would be to centralize procurement of locally produced food. A “Super Co-op” of sorts might be a way to optimize the volume and scale of procurement and distribution, increasing supply and demand and drive prices down. There might be a way to use a Dept. of Corrections model with a prime vendor (private sector) to do this. The group also acknowledged that regional food hubs may also be a structure to support such a need.
- **Local Food Policy Council Network Task Force-** Randy Bell shared that MPC is going to bring on a network coordinator for 6 months to explore the needs and progress being made by the 20 or so local food policy councils in the state. The coordinator will create a directory / data base of the existing councils, their needs, their capacity, their members etc... This project will enable the LFPCN Task Force to assess and recommend further actions and supports for these grass roots groups who are working on some of the Michigan Good Food Charter goals and determine if a more formal statewide network would be valuable.

Updates:

- **Timeline for MFPC Report to Governor** – Jane shared a sample format for a report of recommendations to the Governor as required by the Executive Order and our WKKF grant. Task forces are finishing up recommendations and crafting the narrative content for the report.

Auday suggested using a format used by the Liquor Control Commission that identifies elements such as; Background/Issue, Proposed Solution, Rationale for Change/Additional Comments, Department Comments, Federal or other Implications etc.... The goal is to complete the task force input in December meetings so that a draft of the report content can be approved by the MFPC at our February meeting.

- **State Bid for Corrections Food Service** – Jane and Rebecca Cook shared that the two, separate RFPs for MDOC food services have not yet been evaluated nor has any decision been made. One RFP is seeking a “prime vendor” to consolidate the current structure and the other RFP is asking for proposals to privatize all food services for Corrections. Either change could produce barriers for locally produced foods to be purchased and served in prisons and jails in Michigan.
- Director Clover Adams shared that **grants for Food Hubs** are still being assessed and that an announcement of grantees will be made at the end of October. \$977,000 is available to grant by MDARD. Jane will share the link to the Food Hub List serve so folks can join and be updated.

Jane suggested that it might be valuable for the MFPC to make a report of recommendations for food hub scope and work, based on the Good Food Charter goals. The task forces have identified issues and opportunities where food hubs could serve as a solution or vehicle for addressing the goals of; increasing access to healthy food, increasing institutional food purchasing, building farmer capacity and supporting the creation of new agri-food businesses. The group agreed that this would be valuable and that the task forces should provide their suggestions in a formal report.

Meeting Schedule for 2013:

- Next meeting is February 11, 2013. MFPC meetings in 2013 will be held at 1:00 pm, NOT 10:00am. Location is still being determined.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm

Important Dates and Timeline for MFPC

2012

October	1	Business Task Force (HFFI strategy session)
	8	Full MFPC quarterly Meeting, 10:00am
	9	Access Task Force
	15	Hire intern to coordinate building of Local Food Policy Council Network
	18	Farmer Task Force
	18	Local Food Council Network Task Force
	22	IFP Task Force
November	23	Michigan Food Hub Network - statewide meeting
	1	Making it in Michigan Conference
	6	Business Task Force
	13	Access Task Force
	15	Farmer Task Force
	15	Local Food Council Network Task Force
	26	IFP Task Force
December	1	Begin drafting report to Governor Snyder
	4	Business Task Force
	11	Access Task Force
	15	Farmer Task Force
	20	Local Food Council Network Task Force
	24	IFP Task Force

Task Forces meet:

Business 11:00 am

Access 11:00 am

IFP 11:00 am

Farmer 10:00 am

LFCN 1:00 pm

Dial: 877-873-8018

Code: 3298940

2013

February	11	1:00 pm MFPC Meeting (Approval of content of report to Governor Snyder)
March	31	Release MFPC Report to Governor
May	6	1:00 pm MFPC Meeting
Aug.	5	1:00pm MFPC Meeting
Oct.	7	1:00pm MFPC Meeting